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ORIGINAL

**From:** Erich Keefe <eyefull@eyefulltower.com>  
**To:** K2DOM.K2PO1(GTRISTAN),K4DOM.K4PO2(MPOWELL,SNES),K...  
**Date:** Mon, Aug 2, 1999 1:56 AM  
**Subject:** In Support of the MEC Letter on MM Docket No. 99-25

To: The Honorable William E. Kennard Chairman,  
Commissioner Gloria Tristani,  
Commissioner Michael Powell  
Commissioner Susan Ness  
Commissioner Harold Furchgott-Roth  
Federal Communications Commission  
The Portals 455 Twelfth Street S.W. Washington, DC 20554  
cc: President Clinton, Hillary Clinton, Vice President Al Gore,  
Bill Bradley, and George W. Bush  
cc: Microradio Empowerment Coalition

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AUG 12 1999

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

MM Docket No. 99-25  
Regarding The Creation of Low Power FM Licenses: RM-9242, RM-9208

Dear Honorable Chairman Kennard,

We are writing to commend you and the Federal Communications Commission for taking action on an issue of great importance to us - ending the 21-year ban on community access to the airwaves. We have become increasingly concerned about the growing concentration of the media in our country and are pleased that the Commission is responding to public outcry to increase opportunities for local communities to use our radio airwaves.

One of the fundamental tenets of our democracy is to ensure that diverse interests have opportunities to express themselves, not merely to be the recipients of what a handful of other people tell them. It is a nonnegotiable component of our right to a free press and free speech.

Radio is perhaps the most qualified of any media outlet to provide community access. It is a relatively inexpensive medium to produce and is well-suited to cover community issues and local culture. Unfortunately, over the past three years the U.S. radio broadcasting industry has experienced an unprecedented wave of consolidation and mergers. As a result, the electronic medium best suited to inexpensive, local programming has become arguably the most regimented and centralized of our major media. Even a multimillionaire would have trouble entering the radio broadcasting industry today, because economies of scale (permitted by deregulation) demand that a firm own numerous stations in several markets to be even remotely competitive. As for the person of average means, their lot is limited to being a passive consumer of an increasingly monopolistic industry that has less and less competitive pressure to heed the diverse, local needs of listeners. And, for poor people and others who are considered unimportant to the advertising community, radio increasingly has little to offer. Again, the great tragedy of this situation is that radio is the ideal medium to provide an accessible local service for democratic communications of interest and value to the entire population.

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The strong interest in independent radio stations shows that the creation of low power radio service would have wide public support. The tremendous demand for microradio is demonstrated by the emergence of a national Free Radio Movement, widespread civil disobedience, constitutional challenges of the Commission's aggressively enforced 21-year ban, as well as the proliferation of unlicensed community radio stations supported by local government, whose operators broadcast at the risk of financial losses, seizure of property, arrest, and in some cases, imprisonment.

In addition, the Commission has stated that in the last year alone, 13,000 people inquired regarding the possibility of obtaining a license for low power broadcasting in their communities.

In support with the efforts of the Microradio Empowerment Coalition ([mec@tao.ca](mailto:mec@tao.ca)), we urge you to legalize microradio in order to benefit non-commercial community groups whose interest in microradio is to communicate, to educate, and to inform, not to make money. We are confident you agree that broad citizen access to information and culture is at the heart of a democratic society.

To support this vision, we urge you to legalize microradio with the following concerns in mind:

1. Microradio licenses should be awarded for non-commercial use only. The current radio spectrum is dominated by commercial media. LPFM licenses should go to non-commercial community groups who want to use radio to communicate with their neighbors, not make profit from them.
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5. The Commission should grant full amnesty for the microbroadcast

pioneers who have suffered government seizure and fines. Their property should be returned. They should be granted equal opportunity in applying for and receiving new licenses.

6. Problems, technical or otherwise, should be referred to the local voluntary micropower organization for assistance or mediation (e.g. the Ham radio model). The FCC should be the forum of last resort.

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Again, we commend Chairman Kennard and the Commission for your willingness to address these issues. We are hopeful that the creation of a new class of low power FM radio licensing becomes a reality during the Chairman's present term. We look forward to working on making the airwaves more accessible for our local communities.

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Diane Fleming, Philadelphia  
Peter Franck, San Francisco  
Amanda Huron, Washington, D.C.  
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Mumia Abu-Jamal--Journalist  
Kurt Vonnegut-- Author

Erich Keefe  
674 E. H Street  
Benecia, CA 94510

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**To:** K2DOM.K2PO1(GTRISTAN),K4DOM.K4PO2(MPOWELL,SNESS),K...  
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Sarah Kotzamani  
674 E. H Street  
Benecia, CA 94510



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**From:** "Bill Hamler" <whamler1@twcny.rr.com>  
**To:** K1DOM.K1PO1(BKENNARD),K4DOM.K4PO2(SNESS,MPOWELL),K...  
**Date:** Sat, Aug 7, 1999 3:34 PM  
**Subject:** In Support of the MEC Letter on MM Docket No. 99-25

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## Additional Comments=

name=William A Hamler III  
street=302 Nottingham Road  
city=Syracuse  
state=NY  
zip=13210  
=Send to FCC

ORIGINAL

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

**From:** <gallier@alexia.lis.uiuc.edu>  
**To:** K1DOM.K1PO1(BKENNARD),K4DOM.K4PO2(SNESS,MPOWELL),K...  
**Date:** Sat, Aug 7, 1999 11:36 PM  
**Subject:** InSupportoftheMECLetteronMMDocketNo.99-25

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Diane Fleming, Philadelphia  
Peter Franck, San Francisco  
Amanda Huron, Washington, D.C.  
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Dan Simon--Founder, Seven Stories Press  
Barbara Ehrenreich--Author  
Gloria Steinem--Ms.  
Mumia Abu-Jamal--Journalist  
Kurt Vonnegut-- Author

Additional Comments=

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state=

IL

zip=

61820

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Send to FCC



ORIGINAL

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

**From:** Dan A Frioli <dfrioli1@juno.com>  
**To:** K2DOM.K2PO1(GTRISTAN),K4DOM.K4PO2(MPOWELL, SNESS),K...  
**Date:** Sun, Aug 8, 1999 3:53 AM  
**Subject:** In Support of the MEC Letter on MM Docket No. 99-25

To: The Honorable William E. Kennard Chairman,  
Commissioner Gloria Tristani,  
Commissioner Michael Powell  
Commissioner Susan Ness  
Commissioner Harold Furchgott-Roth  
Federal Communications Commission  
The Portals 455 Twelfth Street S.W. Washington, DC 20554  
cc: President Clinton, Hillary Clinton, Vice President Al Gore,  
Bill Bradley, and George W Bush  
cc: Microradio Empowerment Coalition

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AUG 12 1999

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

MM Docket No. 99-25  
Regarding The Creation of Low Power FM Licenses: RM-9242, RM-9208

Dear Honorable Chairman Kennard,

We are writing to commend you and the Federal Communications Commission for taking action on an issue of great importance to us - ending the 21-year ban on community access to the airwaves. We have become increasingly concerned about the growing concentration of the media in our country and are pleased that the Commission is responding to public outcry to increase opportunities for local communities to use our radio airwaves.

One of the fundamental tenets of our democracy is to ensure that diverse interests have opportunities to express themselves, not merely to be the recipients of what a handful of other people tell them. It is a nonnegotiable component of our right to a free press and free speech.

Radio is perhaps the most qualified of any media outlet to provide community access. It is a relatively inexpensive medium to produce and is well-suited to cover community issues and local culture. Unfortunately, over the past three years the U.S. radio broadcasting industry has experienced an unprecedented wave of consolidation and mergers. As a result, the electronic medium best suited to inexpensive, local programming has become arguably the most regimented and centralized of our major media. Even a multimillionaire would have trouble entering the radio broadcasting industry today, because economies of scale (permitted by deregulation) demand that a firm own numerous stations in several markets to be even remotely competitive. As for the person of average means, their lot is limited to being a passive consumer of an increasingly monopolistic industry that has less and less competitive pressure to heed the diverse, local needs of listeners. And, for poor people and others who are considered unimportant to the advertising community, radio increasingly has little to offer. Again, the great tragedy of this situation is that radio is the ideal medium to provide an accessible local service for democratic communications of interest and value to the entire population.

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Awarding licenses for new low power FM radio stations would empower local communities with a new public forum to express its many voices, cultures, ideas, and needs. Low power radio stations would create much needed public fora for a variety of groups - including community activists, youth, ethnic and linguistic minorities, the religious community, local artists and cultural associations - and provide a forum for dialogue and debate about important local and public interest issues. These kinds of stations would strengthen community identity in urban neighborhoods, rural towns and other communities which are currently too small to win attention from "mainstream", profit-driven media.

The strong interest in independent radio stations shows that the creation of low power radio service would have wide public support. The tremendous demand for microradio is demonstrated by the emergence of a national Free Radio Movement, widespread civil disobedience, constitutional challenges of the Commission's aggressively enforced 21-year ban, as well as the proliferation of unlicensed community radio stations supported by local government, whose operators broadcast at the risk of financial losses, seizure of property, arrest, and in some cases, imprisonment.

In addition, the Commission has stated that in the last year alone, 13,000 people inquired regarding the possibility of obtaining a license for low power broadcasting in their communities. In support with the efforts of the Microradio Empowerment Coalition ([mec@tao.ca](mailto:mec@tao.ca)), we urge you to legalize microradio in order to benefit non-commercial community groups whose interest in microradio is to communicate, to educate, and to inform, not to make money. We are confident you agree that broad citizen access to information and culture is at the heart of a democratic society.

To support this vision, we urge you to legalize microradio with the following concerns in mind:

1. Microradio licenses should be awarded for non-commercial use only. The current radio spectrum is dominated by commercial media. LPFM licenses should go to non-commercial community groups who want to use radio to communicate with their neighbors, not make profit from them.
2. Licenses should be held locally, be non-transferable, affordable to all communities, easy to apply for and limited to one per license holder; they should NOT be businesses.
3. Power levels should be up to 100 watts in urban areas and up to 250 watts in rural areas.
4. The Commission should NOT diminish new low-power stations to "secondary status." It would be a tragedy to take away licenses from low-power community stations just because the Commission subsequently granted a power increase to a pre-existing station or granted a new high power license somewhere nearby.
5. The Commission should grant full amnesty for the microbroadcast

pioneers who have suffered government seizure and fines. Their property should be returned. They should be granted equal opportunity in applying for and receiving new licenses.

6. Problems, technical or otherwise, should be referred to the local voluntary micropower organization for assistance or mediation (e.g. the Ham radio model). The FCC should be the forum of last resort.

7. LPFM must be protected and maintained in the future as radio makes the transition from analog to digital broadcasting.

8. If the FCC intends to license some commercial stations, they must be licensed last. In this instance, there should be a 2 year "headstart" for non-commercial licenses. The right of citizens to communicate is protected by the Constitution and the FCC's mandate. The right to make money through local radio is not a protection under the FCC's mandate.

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Amanda Huron, Washington, D.C.  
Alan Korn, San Francisco  
Greg Ruggiero, New York City

Robert W. McChesney-- University Of Illinois, Urbana  
Noam Chomsky--Massachusetts Institute of Technology

ORIGINAL

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

**From:** Peter Kosenko <peterk@galorath.com>  
**To:** K1DOM.K1PO1(BKENNARD),K4DOM.K4PO2(SNESS,MPOWELL),K...  
**Date:** Sat, Sep 4, 1999 8:05 PM  
**Subject:** In Support of the MEC Letter on MM Docket No. 99-25

=To: The Honorable William E. Kennard Chairman,  
Commissioner Gloria Tristani,  
Commissioner Michael Powell  
Commissioner Susan Ness  
Commissioner Harold Furchgott-Roth  
Federal Communications Commission  
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Dan Simon--Founder, Seven Stories Press  
Barbara Ehrenreich--Author  
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Mumia Abu-Jamal--Journalist  
Kurt Vonnegut-- Author

Additional Comments=As a result of deregulation and consolidation of radio media, I notice in Los Angeles that the current commercial media sound more and more alike, with virtually NO programming devoted to serious discussion of community and political issues (when shows bill themselves as "talk", they are almost universally led by hosts who have done no research into the issues and are merely spouting opinions--about the latest news headlines--that please what the station management considers to be its chief "audience" of ADVERTISERS); the idea is to create sensationalistic pseudo-"controversy" for its own sake rather than to inform. Even "public" radio stations, in their increasing pursuit of private funding are beginning to become homogenized, replaying standard NPR programming fare and cutting back on public affairs programming that requires more staffing to produce.

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